

Al pilots form their own company

RELEV SCORIL
Post Aviation Reporter
— El Al's 212 licensed pilots have formed a company of their own, known as "Majestic," registered earlier this month. The company has a founding capital of \$1 million.

The pilots are now at the airport, the chairman of the pilots' staff committee, Gideon Arbel, told the Post yesterday. The pilots are now at the airport, the chairman of the pilots' staff committee, Gideon Arbel, told the Post yesterday.

Swiss stopover on El Al's Mexico route

Jerusalem Post Reporter
Switzerland has granted El Al full rights to make stopovers at either Zurich or Geneva on the Israeli carrier's new weekly route to Mexico.

Approval by the Swiss civil aviation authority was received on Sunday, authoritative sources said. The Swiss decision gives El Al "4th freedom" rights to take on and let off passengers to and from Mexico. The consent has been given on a temporary basis, presumably while a quid pro quo for Switzerland is sought.

The Swiss stopover was provided for in the air agreement signed last month in Mexico City. The agreement also provides for similar on route rights in the Bahamas, and officials here are optimistic that this will also be granted. At present the Israeli-Mexico flights make stops for refuelling and changing crews in Amsterdam and Montreal. It will now be up to El Al to decide on taking up the Swiss option now, or waiting for the Bahamas' decision before changing the present route.



Yehuda Shalev

Prisoner here

Jerusalem Post Staff
— Yuri Vudka, who served a seven-year term in a camp last summer, Monday night. He was arrested by his wife's relatives, who married him while he was still in prison. He was still in prison when he was married.

% of new welfare cases are children of old welfare cases

Jerusalem Post Staff
— Out of every eight new welfare cases in 1975/76, one was the child of a welfare case. The Welfare Ministry statistics show that 12.5 per cent of new welfare cases are children of old welfare cases.

The study by Tel Aviv and the Municipality of Tel Aviv shows that 10 per cent of the city's welfare aid (money and services) is given to children of welfare cases. The study was conducted by Dr. Yehuda Shalev, head of the municipality's social department, and Tel Aviv's Prof. Mordechai Shalev. The study found that the children of welfare cases are more likely to be in welfare cases themselves.

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Rabin, Almogi discuss Horev aliya report

Jerusalem Post Reporter
Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin discussed the Horev Commission report on aliya and absorption with Jewish Agency Executive Chairman Yosef Almogi yesterday, but did not disclose when the document would next be brought up in the Cabinet.

Almogi told the Premier that the aliya and absorption process must be under one authority. One of the possible alternatives is that it be under the aegis of a state authority with independent financing and control, he said.

Rabin said that after the Cabinet finished its discussions on the report (commission chairman Amos Horev presented it at the Cabinet on Sunday), the document would go to the coordinating body between the Government and the Jewish Agency.

MKS score Almogi's appearances abroad

Jerusalem Post Reporter
Two Labour MKs have sent a letter to Labour Party Secretary-General Meir Zarmi, complaining about the appearances abroad of Jewish Agency Executive Chairman Yosef Almogi. The letter, which was signed by MKs Yehuda Shalev and Yehuda Shalev, said that Almogi's appearances abroad are inconsistent with his position as a Labour MK and that they are a waste of public money.

U.S. request to extradite Israeli is turned down

Jerusalem Post Staff
TEL AVIV. — A U.S. request to extradite Dov Cohen, an Israeli who served as the deputy city engineer of Gary, Indiana, was turned down by the Tel Aviv District Court on Monday. The court found that Cohen was not a resident of the United States and therefore could not be extradited.

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Only with great difficulty did a police cordon manage to escort film actresses Elizabeth Taylor and her husband of four days, John Warner, from their plane to a waiting taxi midway yesterday at Ben-Gurion Airport. Mobs of photographers, El Al staff airport employees and other onlookers spilled onto the tarmac and kept the couple from alighting from the plane for 20 minutes before police could clear a corridor for them. The couple then headed for a 2 1/2 day honeymoon in Jerusalem. Taylor and her husband, who is director of the U.S. Bicentennial Programme, will plant trees in a Jerusalem Hills forest honouring America's 200th birthday. They will also visit a Variety Club children's home, which the actress supports. They will meet Premier Rabin tonight. (Starphoto)

Shikun Ovdim wants Housing Ministry to buy 1,500 flats

Jerusalem Post Reporter
TEL AVIV. — Shikun Ovdim, the country's largest housing construction company, owned by the Histadrut, hopes to solve its "liquidity" problems by selling 1,500 flats to the Ministry of Housing. Shikun Ovdim, which is now headed by Avraham Ofer, former head of Shikun Ovdim, might not be interpreted as favouritism.

Hapoel officials questioned by fraud squad

Jerusalem Post Reporter
TEL AVIV. — The investigation into financial irregularities at the Hapoel sports organization was stepped up this week as members of the Tel Aviv fraud squad questioned individuals connected with the organization.

'Worst sardine season in 20 years'

Jerusalem Post Reporter
HAIFA. — The annual party to mark the end of the Mediterranean sardine fishing season has been called off, "because the fishermen have nothing to celebrate." Instead, they will meet here next week to bemoan the "worst season since this type of fishing was started in Israel 20 years ago." Fishermen's Union secretary Dov Schmiedel told The Jerusalem Post yesterday.

He said that this year only some 400 tons, one-third of the average annual catch, were landed. The fishermen have already received a IL150,000 advance on their losses from joint union-government funds; and at the meeting they will discuss a demand for another IL250,000, "at least to cover their fuel expenses."

Ernst Groff of the Agriculture Ministry Fisheries division told The Post that this year's late start of summer delayed the water warming up to the sardine's breeding temperature, and autumn storms brought the season to a close before it had really got under way.

Zahavi might run for Knesset

Jerusalem Post Reporter
Zahavi, the organization for the rights of large families, may run for Knesset in the coming elections, a member of the executive told The Jerusalem Post. They have applied for papers to register as a political party at the Interior Ministry. Zahavi has 5,000 paid-up members (at IL10 per year) but represents some 110,000 families with four or more children. They may also put up lists for the Histadrut and for local councils. Members of Zahavi feel that no party has devoted enough study to domestic issues or taken a strong enough stand on behalf of the disadvantaged.

tion. We built the flats at the request of the Government in development areas, to meet the growth problems of these areas. They are not growing as predicted, due mainly to the drop in immigration. We are stuck with these apartments. We think it is only fair that the Government come to our rescue." But he added that if the Government failed to buy them, Shikun Ovdim was "strong enough to withstand the storm. We are 47 years old, and we have built 150,000 flats in Israel."

At present, Shikun Ovdim has 3,700 flats for sale. Nearly all are completed or nearing completion. Of these, 3,000 are in development areas and 700 in the centre of the country.

Eldy, who joined the company five months ago, said that he has started reorganizing the company, reducing the number of workers and increasing the efficiency of those remaining.

He predicted that "1977 would be a much worse year for selling flats than the current year, and we must take adequate steps in time."

David Stern, president of the Federation of (private) Contractors and Builders, said yesterday he saw nothing wrong in Shikun Ovdim seeking aid from the Government. "If anything," he said, "I would like to see the Government move in and help us by establishing a IL100m fund to help young couples buy housing from private contractors."

Moreover, Stern wanted the Government to raise the present limit on mortgages granted flat purchasers from IL40,000 to at least IL60,000 all over the country, and from IL50,000 to IL80,000 in Jerusalem (where flats are more expensive).

"The entire industry faces dire financial straits," he said. "It is up to the Government, which controls the supply of capital in Israel, to take the appropriate steps," Stern concluded.

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→ SWISSAIR

Bat Yam Likud mayor warns he may run as independent

By SARAH HONG
Jerusalem Post Reporter
BAT YAM. — Mayor Yitzhak Walker has become the second Dan Region Likud mayor to threaten to run as an independent. Tel Aviv's mayor Shlomo Lahat said recently that he would leave his party if his demands for a bigger say on the make-up of the list of city council candidates were not met.

Mayor Walker's threats are also prompted by internal party squabbles, but they appear to be far more serious than those besetting Mayor Lahat. Going independent is more difficult for Walker, as he is a loyal Herut member of many years standing, while Lahat's Liberal Party affiliation is considered by many to be no more than nominal. Ever since he took office, three years ago, Walker's most serious problems came from within his own Herut faction and nearly cost him his post. Many fellow Likud members did not take kindly to his decision to appoint no more than a single deputy mayor; and two Herut councilmen, Yehuda Shalev and Maurice Abutbul, threatened to join the Alignment opposition. Only after being made deputy mayors did they stay in the coalition.

Lately, they have reportedly been leading a "rebellion" against Walker and have gone as far as to change

the locks on the doors of the local Herut branch to deny him entry. In a show of force, the mayor recently rented a private hall for a gathering of several hundred supporters.

Those close to Walker say that he will not be handicapped by lack of party backing, since his mayoral status has already made him a familiar figure in town. City Hall pundits here say it is doubtful that he will be forced to run on his own, as Herut leader Menachem Begin will almost certainly intervene on Walker's behalf, as usually happens whenever the internal Herut squabbles in this town get out of hand.

The Likud in-fighting has done little to lift Alignment opposition spirits, however. Officially, the Alignment decided several months back that its candidate for the forthcoming elections is again former mayor Menachem Rothschild. Nevertheless, many influential Alignment members are far from happy with the choice, and there is talk about enlisting a bigger vote-getter to head the Alignment ticket.

The Jerusalem Post has learned of several attempts to interest well-known public figures in the candidacy. Among those said to have been unsuccessfully approached was former police commissioner Shaul Rosolio, who prefers to go to Harvard next fall.

Goldmann: Jalloud sabotaged WJC meet with Spanish King

By JACK MAURICE
Jerusalem Post Correspondent
PARIS. — World Jewish Congress President Nahum Goldmann yesterday accused Libyan Premier Abdel Salam Jalloud of sabotaging the audience which he was scheduled to have with King Juan Carlos during world Jewry's first meeting in Spain since the Inquisition.

Dr. Goldmann told The Jerusalem Post on his return to Paris from Madrid: "Jalloud was in town and his presence triggered protests from the Arab embassies in Madrid urging the King to cancel the meeting with my colleagues and myself."

The WJC leader said cancellation of the audience did not cast any shadow on the Madrid meeting, which was attended by Jewish community chiefs from both Western and Eastern Europe, except the Soviet Union.

He added: "We are not always received by the king or the government when we hold a meeting elsewhere in Europe. This was a good conference. It marks a milestone in relations between the

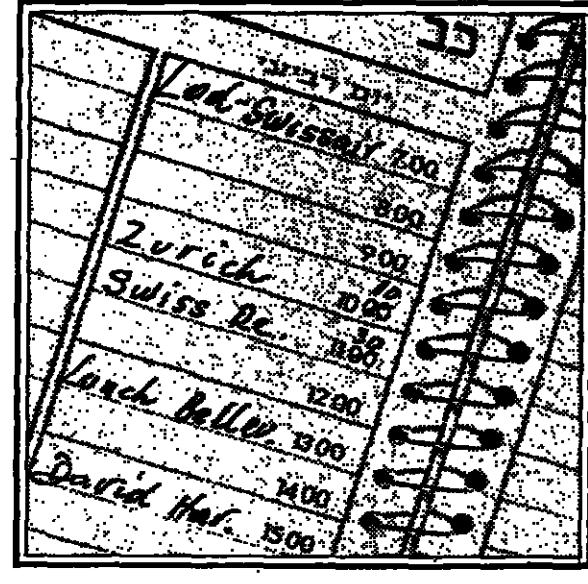
Spanish authorities and the Jewish people."

Goldmann said his cancelled meeting with the King was unlikely to delay establishment of diplomatic ties between Israel and Spain. "Relations could begin at any time after the Spanish election and referendum next spring," he added. An official in Jerusalem said last night that the denouement in Madrid gave the lie finally to the Arab claim that, while they were anti-Zionist, they were on no account anti-Jewish.

Dan bus lines extended

TEL AVIV. — Dan bus lines 13 and 25 have been extended to cover new housing developments north of Ramat Aviv.

Bus number 13 will from now on continue to Anderson, Yehuda Ha-nasi, Rav Ashi, Oppenheimer, Rabin, Ahimor, Zuri and Shlomo Ben Yosef Streets. The number 25 line will be extended to cover more corners of the Tel Aviv University campus.



Japan PM accepts blame for election defeat Miki almost says he'll resign

TOKYO. — Japanese Prime Minister Takeo Miki, assuming responsibility for his ruling party's losses in Sunday's general election, yesterday indicated that he will soon resign.

Officials of Miki's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) quoted the 69-year-old leader as telling senior colleagues: "I feel grave responsibility for the results of the election. I do not intend to avoid my responsibility."

Party secretary-general Tanaka Uchida told reporters that Miki, Prime Minister since December 1974, was expected to announce early next week whether he will step down. Party sources felt it was almost certain that he would resign.

Miki and the party executives agreed to convene an extraordinary session of the Diet (Parliament) about December 25 to nominate the next Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister's statement followed the LDP's failure to win a majority in a new enlarged 511-seat lower house, which seemed certain to end its 21 years of continuous one-party rule.

The pro-American conservative party won 249 seats in the election, seven short of a majority. However, it increased its strength to 257 later when eight elected conservative independents joined the ruling party.

Miki has faced a persistent drive for his ouster by his foes within the LDP over his handling of the Lockheed Aircraft Corp. payoff scandal. His pledge to make a thorough probe into the case drew opposition.

The anti-Miki drive is led by former Finance Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda, 71, who missed chances of becoming Prime Minister twice before. Fukuda now has strong support in the ruling party.

Fukuda was regarded as the strongest successor to the late Prime Minister Masako Sato, who stepped down in 1972. He was defeated in the presidential election by Kakuei Tanaka who enlisted the support of Miki and Finance Minister Masayoshi Ohira, another contender to the post. After Tanaka stepped down as Prime Minister under the Lockheed case corruption charges, Miki was named Tanaka's successor as a compromise choice over Fukuda and Ohira in November, 1974.

(Reuters, UPI)

Gaddafi tells Soviets: No faith in Geneva

MOSCOW. — Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi and Kremlin leaders held a second round of talks yesterday after airing their differences on ways of resolving the Middle East problem.

Gaddafi, who is visiting Moscow for the first time, let his Soviet hosts know in a speech Monday night that he does not share their faith in a reconvened Geneva peace conference.

After listening to President Nikolai Podgorniy express support for an over-all settlement within the framework of a Geneva conference, Gaddafi declared that "not too much significance should be attached to conferences."

Details have been scant about the way the Kremlin discussions have gone, but Western diplomatic ob-

servers believe Soviet leaders may be seeking to persuade Gaddafi to moderate his stand.

Gaddafi also denounced the U.S. for working against the Arabs in the Middle East and said American policy was leading the world to a "cataclysm."

Western diplomats said the presence at the talks of the commander-in-chief of Libyan armed forces, Lt-Col. Abu Bakr Yunus Jabar, making his second visit to Moscow in two months, and Soviet First Deputy Defence Minister Sergei Sokolov indicated more Soviet arms supplies to Libya figured in the talks. Sokolov apparently stood in for Soviet Defence Minister Dimitri Ustinov, who is on an official visit to Bulgaria.

(UPI, AP, Reuters)

'Stampa': Libya deal won't affect us

TURIN. — The Fiat-owned newspaper "La Stampa," one of Italy's major dailies, gave front-page prominence yesterday to an assurance from the car company that Libya's recent purchase of a stake in Fiat would not affect its independence.

"La Stampa" said the paper's board had taken note of the assurance given on Monday by Fiat chairman Giovanni Agnelli that his company's purchase of more than 9

per cent in Fiat "will have no effect on the traditional and complete autonomy of the paper's political line."

Concern had been expressed in some quarters at the possible effect on "La Stampa" of the Libyan deal, especially in the light of unsuccessful demands made by Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi three years ago for the dismissal of the paper's Jewish editor, Arrigo Levi. (Reuters)

Arafat ends talks with Ceausescu

BUCHAREST. — Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasser Arafat left here yesterday for an unknown destination after a two-day visit that included talks with Rumanian President Nicolae Ceausescu.

During a toast at a luncheon on Monday, Arafat said: "We shall do everything so as not to interfere in the internal affairs of any Arab state."

Apparently having been told by Ceausescu that such interference would be a mistake, Arafat added "we shall never forget this friendly advice of yours."

Ceausescu urged that the Geneva talks on the Middle East should be resumed with the participation of the PLO. (AP, UPI)

Boycotters will lose state contracts

BOSTON. — Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis signed an executive order Monday prohibiting businesses holding state contracts to participate in the Arab economic boycott of Israel.

Dukakis is believed to be the first governor in the nation to approve such a regulation.

Dukakis said the Arab boycott, directed against Israel and against firms that do business with Israel from participating in the Arab boy-

cott, is "clear interference with our constitutionally guaranteed civil and human rights."

Any firm contracting with the state government after January 1, 1977, for an amount of \$5,000 or more, must agree to participate in an international boycott. Otherwise, the state can cancel the contract.

A state law, effective January 1, 1977, prohibits Massachusetts firms from participating in the Arab boy-

Gromyko talk said cause of FM's downfall

HONG KONG. — A private meeting between former Foreign Minister Chiao Kuan-hua of China and his Soviet counterpart Andrei Gromyko at the UN was a major factor in Chiao's downfall, an English language daily reported here yesterday.

The "South China Morning Post," quoting an arrival from Peking, said the Chinese minister in charge of the physical culture and sports commission, Chiao Tse-tung was also in deep political trouble. The arrival declined to be identified and his report could not be confirmed in Hong Kong.

The traveller said Chinese leaders are questioning Chiao on the meeting, which he said lasted three to four hours early last month when both men were in New York for the UN session.

Chiao was replaced as foreign minister by China's ambassador to the UN, Huang Hua, last Thursday at the third session of the standing committee of China's Fourth National People's Congress. Chiao disappeared from public view after he returned to Peking. (AP)

Australia ups dollar value

SYDNEY. — The Australian Government increased the value of the Australian dollar against foreign currencies yesterday by two per cent.

Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser's office said the move was made because speculation in the dollar had stopped following the 17.5 per cent devaluation on November 28. The statement said capital inflow had resumed and it was now appropriate to revalue the currency's value.

The new Australian dollar value in terms of U.S. dollars was \$1.0886 compared with Monday's rate of \$1.0129. The Australian dollar was worth \$1.2354 prior to devaluation. (AP, Reuters)

Heath in open revolt against Thatcher

LONDON. — The long-simmering feud between former Conservative Prime Minister Edward Heath and Margaret Thatcher, who ousted him from the party leadership in 1975, has erupted into the open.

Heath Monday night placed himself squarely at the point of rebellion against Mrs. Thatcher's authority among Conservative Party Members of Parliament.

In a speech at Glasgow he said he will defy her orders and not vote against a Labour Government bill that will give limited home rule and their own assemblies to Scotland and Ireland.

Heath demanded total opposition to the bill by all the 280 Tories in the Commons. He said: "It is unthinkable that those of us who have for so long believed in this principle should be expected to vote against it."

About 20 Tories are known to be unhappy over the Devolution Bill, as it is called. If they abstain in future votes during its progress through Parliament, the bill is certain to win approval and the image of a Tory party united and determined to drive Labour from office will be tarnished.

The Heath-Thatcher split has been a major talking point in British politics for two years. Heath made no secret of his resentment that his party deserted him after he led it to defeat while defying the mi-

Nato members to review common defence spending

BRUSSELS. — The Nato countries have decided to review their contributions to the alliance's common defence system in view of the growing Soviet military threat, according to a draft Nato communiqué made available to Reuters yesterday.

The document, to be published today at the end of a Nato defence ministers' meeting, calls for a real increase in defence spending by member states.

It says it is necessary to review Nato contributions for 1977 in order to remedy serious deficiencies. However, the ministers still have to decide whether to retain the word "serious" in the final communiqué.

The defence ministers' move became known as Nato's senior military chief yesterday criticised Nato governments for not spending enough on defence as the Soviet Union relentlessly builds up its military strength.

British Admiral of the Fleet Sir Peter Hill-Norton, chairman of Nato's military committee, said that the biggest weakness in the alliance was lack of defence spending.

The defence ministers' talks are part of the annual winter sessions for the 16-nation alliance. The meetings will culminate on Friday in

Secretary of State Henry Kissinger extends hand to his successor, Secretary-designate Cyrus Vance, when Vance arrived for transition meeting at the State Department in Washington Monday afternoon. (UPI telephoto)

Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's farewell.

Kissinger and other Nato foreign ministers will take over from their defence colleagues tomorrow to manage the progress of East-West dialogue and discuss major political crises, including the Middle East and the critical situation in Southern Africa.

Kissinger left Washington yesterday on probably his last diplomatic mission as Secretary of State carrying a message of support for Carter.

The message, given to Kissinger by Carter in Plains, two weeks ago, pledges the new President's commitment to transatlantic ties.

Strains have eased considerably since the U.S. was accusing the Europeans only two years ago of hostility on the economic and political front. The Brussels meetings are viewed as a pleasant overseas farewell for Kissinger, who has globe-trotted more than 890,000 km. in three years as Secretary of State.

With Carter's backing, Kissinger hopes to boost Western resolve to maintain a first-rate defence, despite domestic pressures building in Britain and elsewhere to cut costs as an anti-inflationary measure. (AP, Reuters)

Rhodesians fear guerrillas killed missing priest

SALISBURY. — Missionary officials said yesterday they feared for the life of a Swiss Roman Catholic priest who has been missing for four days — during which three white missionaries have been shot dead by a black guerrilla.

Father George Oregor, 45, was last seen four days ago outside a store in the Nyajene tribal reserve, a known hiding place for Black guerrillas about 300 km. south of Salisbury, the Rhodesian capital.

Police in Western Rhodesia were still searching with tracker dogs and helicopters for the black guerrilla who stopped two German priests and two German nuns on the highway between Bulawayo and the Victoria national falls park on Sunday, demanded money and opened fire on them with a machine-

gun when they told him they had none.

Meanwhile, efforts to save the Rhodesia talks at Geneva will be stepped up when U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger will arrive in Britain on Friday for talks on possible measures to find a common formula that will satisfy Rhodesia's whites and the four black factions represented at Geneva.

Officials said the British Government is deeply worried by the deadlock in the slow-moving Geneva talks. The conference has been meeting for six weeks to try and reach an agreement on an interim government under the Kissinger plan to pave the way for ultimate transfer of power to a black majority administration. (Reuters, UPI, AP)

Nuclear expert seen new U.S. defence chief

ATLANTA. — President-elect Jimmy Carter yesterday began interviewing leading candidates for his cabinet, amid reports that Dr. Harold Brown has emerged as the leading contender for the post of Secretary of Defense.

Brown, a former Secretary of the Air Force and director of defence research under the Johnson Administration, is now President of the California Institute of Technology. He was virtually certain to be named the Pentagon chief, a source close to Carter aides said in Washington on Monday.

Brown, a 60-year-old nuclear physicist who was on the U.S. negotiating team in the strategic arms (SALT) talks with the Soviet Union, said that he was flying to Atlanta and would see Carter today. But he said he did not know anything beyond this.

Michael Brumath, the chairman and chief executive officer of the Bendix Corporation, and former Defence Secretary James Schlesinger, have also been mentioned as being under serious consideration.

Sources noted that Brown would be an ideal complement to Cyrus Vance, who was named by Carter last week to be his Secretary of State.

Vance is widely known for his skills as a negotiator and since being named Secretary of State has indicated that a nuclear arms agreement would have top priority in the new Carter administration. Brown is one of America's top nuclear scientists and has been a member of the U.S. SALT negotia-

Bomb found in Carter office

WASHINGTON. — Transition team for President-elect Jimmy Carter found a bomb in their office Monday. It was defused by a bomb squad.

The bomb was contained in a package found in the mailroom of the fifth floor offices in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare North Building being vacated by the Carter transition team. The offices were evacuated and the bomb taken outside and defused. It was then turned over to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Washington Post Key: "We'll be spending a great deal of time together while I learn to know him," he said.

Cordially aside, it was clear Vance means to move quickly to over the State Department, as soon as the new Administration comes to power. He said he had to shuttle almost daily between Washington and New York, where he was winding down his law practice, to begin to work full-time in the transition office that has been set up on the first floor of the Department building.

Their meeting was the first President-elect Carter design the Wall-Street lawyer to the However, Kissinger noted that paths have crossed before in earnest service. "All I ask, told Vance reporters, is that (reporters) treat you as they treat me." (Los Angeles Times, AP, Reuters)

The party caucus then picked Rep. Jim Wright of Texas as majority leader, the No. 2 position in the Senate.

Also competing for a Senate seat was Sen. Bill Bradley, attorney to succeed O'Neill as majority leader. He was decisively beaten by Rep. John McFall of California and Richard Bolling of Missouri.

Unopposed for the top House position, O'Neill, 64, now the majority leader, was chosen by acclamation by the caucus. Election by the house in January will be a formality. (AP) 90-71 margin.

O'Neill named House Speaker

WASHINGTON. — Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill, a busy 60-foot-three Massachusetts Democrat who has promised strong leadership, was named Speaker of the House of Representatives on Monday.

The party caucus then picked Rep. Jim Wright of Texas as majority leader, the No. 2 position in the Senate.

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A painful decision

A DOCTOR'S NOTE-BOOK / Dr. David Samson

EVERY DOCTOR'S attitude to prescribing drugs is affected by several factors. Notably his professional background and training, his personal experience of the drugs involved and the stream of information he receives about current developments and clinical research in pharmacology.

When it comes, for example, to suggesting a minor analgesic (pain-killing) drug for one of my patients, or for myself for that matter, my own approach is influenced to some extent by all these factors. By minor analgesics, I mean those drugs useful in treating the minor aches and pains we are all subject to from time to time — not the more severe sorts of pain associated with, say, some chronic joint diseases.

I must admit that my own outlook towards such drugs is rather conservative. I probably don't employ more than four or five different types in coping with minor pain syndromes. My favourite choices in this field are good old-fashioned aspirin and paracetamol. Both have proved themselves reliable allies over and over again.

One or two tablets of aspirin gives prompt relief of moderate pain in most people without any subjective or objective discomfort. In a small minority of people, aspirin may sometimes cause stomach upsets and occasionally bleeding of a lesser or greater degree from the gastrointestinal tract. Therefore, it is contra-indicated in patients who have or have had any stomach trouble, such as an ulcer or indigestion.

Alcohol ingestion at or near the same time as taking the aspirin seems to provoke this undesirable side-effect, and so-called "buffered" aspirin does not offer any protection. Old folk, too, seem to be at greater risk. For the elderly and others for whom aspirin is not suitable, I prescribe paracetamol. I find it is usually about as effective as aspirin in its pain-reducing properties and without aspirin's adverse effect on the stomach.

In the rare cases where the use of both of the above is contra-indicated or not followed by any great therapeutic success, I may try codeine instead. The use of codeine is often criticised on the grounds that it is a drug of addiction. Most authorities would agree that this danger has probably been exaggerated and that its addiction potential is, in fact, low.

The misconception may be a result of the aura of potency associated with other drugs in the narcotic group (morphine, etc) of which codeine is a member. Occasionally,



Some 50 different preparations are available in Israel to use as minor analgesics (pain-killers), and the public may take them indiscriminately. Here Kapat Holim patients with prescriptions from their doctors, line up at a sick fund pharmacy. (P.C.A.)

I may try a drug containing a combination of the drugs mentioned above, and this additive effect sometimes does the trick.

Perhaps it is just as important to mention pain-killers which I try not to use and why. I avoid drugs, containing singly or in combination, dipyrone, amidopyrine, phenacetin or barbiturates, to single out the most important ones. The first three have been associated with such potentially serious side-effects that I do not feel their use can be justified, as they do not possess any significant advantage clinically over other drugs in this group.

Drugs containing dipyrone or amidopyrine can only be sold in the U.S., if the package states clearly that the drug may cause a fatal blood disease. These two drugs, as well as phenacetin, are not generally used at all in Britain, although in fairness it should be pointed out that they are still popular in continental Europe. Barbiturates are included with analgesics for their sedative effect.

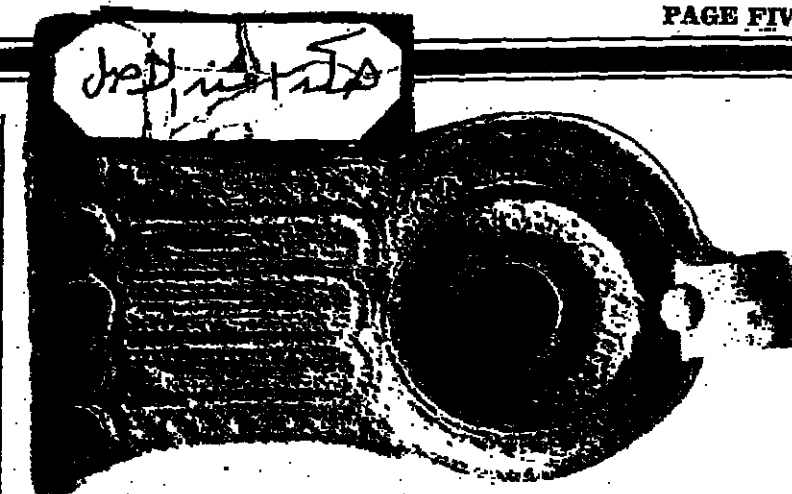
This may indeed be desirable under certain circumstances. I prefer to give any sedation separately, especially when dealing with children in whom barbiturates may actually cause exactly the opposite of the desired calming effect.

All this is not to say that dangers have never been associated with those drugs that I do use. The chief danger described, apart from accidental or intentional overdose, has been attributed to their prolonged and continuous consumption over many years. Preparations containing aspirin, paracetamol, phenacetin, amidopyrine and certain less commonly used drugs have been thought to cause slow destruction of kidney function when used in this way over a long period. Good recovery may occur if the practice is stopped in time. Originally this was a danger believed due only to phenacetin, but the evidence for this has become less convincing. It is now accepted that any or all of the drugs listed above may be responsible for kidney damage if taken regularly for long enough.

These minor analgesics are also readily available, alone or in combination form, "over-the-counter" without a prescription. Take a look at what the products currently on the market actually contain. There are about 50 different preparations in this category. Some are household names. Of these, five each contain only aspirin or only paracetamol, and two contain both combined. Two contain codeine alone, and there are four other "combination" drugs in the list, which I would consider prescribing for my patients, or for my family, if the need arose. Ten of the drugs contain barbiturates in one form or another, along with the analgesic component; 13 contain phenacetin; and 14 contain dipyrone or amidopyrine. All in all, there are only about 20 preparations which fit my prescribing habits. I discard the remainder as unsuitable for reasons I've already outlined.

Many medical people in Israel believe that control over the sale of these drugs should be much tighter, or they should be available by prescription only, in view of the harmful effects associated with their long-term use. There is also a good case for stopping the sale of certain of these drugs altogether.

Nothing written here is intended to deter the judicious use of a minor analgesic for that headache or aching back we all experience now and again. But taking all the known evidence into account, it would not seem amiss to give a warning against excessive use of all common minor analgesic preparations.



One of the 999 clay lamps in the collection of Louis and Carmen Warschaw, part of which is the exhibit of the month at the Israel Museum. The lamps date from the time of Herod.

FROM MY JERUSALEM KITCHEN / Sybil Kaufman

All kinds of latkes

PANCAKES of one kind or another have been traditional for Hanukkah since the Middle Ages. Some people say the oil in which they are fried is reminiscent of the Hanukkah miracle of the cruse of oil; others say the Maccabees ate pancakes for added strength.

Whatever the origin, here are a variety of pancake recipes for the holiday.

POTATO LATKES

6 peeled potatoes
1 medium onion
2 eggs
1/4 t. salt
1/4 t. pepper
1/2 cup flour
oil

1. Grate potatoes and onion into a mixing bowl. Add eggs, salt, pepper and flour.
2. Heat oil in the frying pan until hot. Drop tablespoons of batter around pan and fry until brown on both sides. Drain on paper towels, place on plate in oven to keep warm until serving.

MARILYN'S CHEESE PANCAKES

4-6 servings
500 grams soft white cheese
2 eggs
3 T. corn-flour
1 heaping T. jam
1 heaping T. sugar
pinch salt
oil

1. Combine cheese, eggs and corn-flour in a mixing bowl and blend well. Add jam, sugar and salt and mix.
2. Heat oil in frying pan until hot. Drop teaspoons of batter around pan and fry until brown on both sides.

EGGPLANT PANCAKES

24 servings
1 large eggplant
2 eggs
1 medium onion, finely chopped

1. Peel eggplant and cut into small cubes. Place in saucepan with enough water to cover. Add onion and garlic. Cook 20 minutes or until easily mashed with a fork. If you have a pressure cooker, place eggplant, onion and garlic in pressure cooker with 1/2 cup water. Cook at 15 pounds pressure for 3 minutes after control jiggles.
2. Drain off water whichever way you cook vegetables, place in a bowl and mash well. Add eggs, salt and pepper and bread crumbs.
3. Form into patties, put on a plate and refrigerate for about one hour.
4. Heat oil in frying pan. Fry patties on both sides until brown.

1-2 large cloves garlic, crushed
salt and pepper to taste
1/4-1/2 cup bread crumbs

4 tart apples
3 T. lemon juice
1/2 butter or margarine
1 cup flour
1 cup milk
1 t. salt
6 beaten eggs
powdered (confectioner's) sugar

1. Peel and slice apples thin. Mix with 2 T. lemon juice.
2. Melt butter or margarine in a skillet and saute apples until they are glazed.
3. Combine flour, milk and salt in a mixing bowl. Add beaten eggs. Continue beating until batter is well mixed. Pour over apple mixture. If your skillet is not good in an oven, transfer whole apple and batter mixture to a pie plate or baking dish.
4. Place skillet or baking dish in 450°F (230°C) oven and bake 20 minutes. Reduce oven to 350°F (180°C) and bake 10 minutes more.
5. Remove from oven. Sprinkle with 1 T. lemon juice and lots of powdered sugar. Serve at once.

Computerizing Responsa

WOLF BLATZER

JEON Post Correspondent
FOR — The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has granted to support two which will focus on Jewish studies and studies: the one of a script for an film on the Holocaust and the other of a computerized of Hebrew Responsa.

The NEH projects will in-
grant of \$175,000
additional offer of
in gifts-and-matching
the "Hebrew Responsa
Project," to be coor-
Bar-Ilan University in
Yeshiva University in

"Hebrew Responsa" is a com-
puterized project which
deals with the respon-
sibilities of rabbis and
questions on religious,
social matters posed by
nations and individuals
world. Primarily in
rabbi and Aramaic, these
provide valuable infor-
research in the areas of
ence, comparative
philosophy, history,
and literature, according

Good works in progress

JEON Post Reporter
nd encouragement to
just out of prison, or to
nger of becoming juvenile
s; dental clinics for poor
food and clothing for
who, without these
might not be able to stay

of good works undertaken
men in Elia goes on and
the organization's 10-year
has helped keep hundreds
children in Ort schools in
the north — by providing
from a hot meal to tutor-
eriman, chairman of the

organization, has been a volunteer
for 40 years. She was one of the
founders of Y'a'al (volunteers in
hospitals) and came to Ort ten years
ago.

She and a few dozen active
volunteers visit Ort schools daily, in
rotation, serving hot lunches, track-
ing down truants.

Mrs. Perlman is now helping one
boy who has been in prison. "We go
to see him almost every day and see
to it that he keep up with
schoolwork. If he doesn't show up at
school, we find out why. Just know-
ing that someone cares about him
may keep him out of further
trouble."

58-plus help for Shlomi

By HADASSAH BAT HAIM

NAHARIYA. — After a few false
starts, the "58" project now has a
small but firm foothold in the
village of Shlomi near the Lebanese
border. The development town was
recently featured on a television
programme on poverty, and it has
welcomed the efforts of the men and
women, aged 58 and over, who have
come to lend a helping hand.

So far only organizer Alisa Minski,
a former biology teacher, has been
allotted an apartment, but the event-
ual aim is for all who take part in
the plan to settle in the town and
become part of the community.

In England, a similar action,
known as "A Bridge to Israel," ex-
ploits the skills and talents of older
people who, though they may be pen-
sioners, still feel they have many
useful and productive years before
them. Israel can well reap the
harvest of experience and expertise
of these senior citizens, some groups
have already proved their worth on
 kibbutzim where they are regarded
as among the most diligent and con-
scientious workers.

So far a mechanical workshop and
a handicraft centre for making and
learning to operate puppets have
been set up in Shlomi. Shortly to be
opened are a drama class, a knitting
circle and a place where auxiliary
help will be given in English studies.

Many retired persons who would
not like to end their days in a
 "Parasite Home" welcome the
possibility of getting a small apart-
ment within reach of others of like
minds near enough to get neighbourly
assistance if it should be needed.
It could offer an attractive future to
people who are old enough to retire
and young enough to want to start a
new life.

claret's hand, the club ace and a
club suit in Shlomi, and, for
minus 500 points, in this deal the
sacrifice did pay.

BRIDGE LINGUISTICS.

Howard Blake is a student of
the highest level of bridge linguis-
tics. He reports the following bid-
ding with its supreme communi-
cation between partners:

South North
1 NT (1) 4 ♠ (2)
5 ♠ (3) 5 ♥ (4)
6 ♠ (5) 6 ♥ (6)
6 ♠ (7) 6 ♥ (8)
6 ♠ (9) 6 NT (10)
7 ♥ (11) 7 ♦ (12)
7 ♥ (13) 7 ♦ (14)
7 NT (15) 7 ♥ (16)
1. 18-18 points.
2. (Gerber) How many aces do
you have?
3. I have all four aces.
4. You got a queen, too, maybe?
5. No spades.
6. We have all the aces, kings
and queens! It's a lay down
seven. But no hurry. What's
new?
7. My son flunked Gdnia.
8. So what is he doing with his
Saturdays?
9. He formed an opposition group.
10. With me it's my business; it
isn't good.
11. Mazal tov! Last time you said
it was terrible.
12. I'm doing better with Mifal
Hapayis.
13. You win from Mifal Hapayis?
14. No. I sell tickets on the side.
15. Well, here goes.



Idenberg (right) clowns with Shmuel Segal (left) and Shmuel (Zvi Beck)

MORIAM Elihu Goldenberg

Dedicated to his art

year and a half ago I found
peaking to a grey-haired
smallish stature, with clear
conveyed friendly whilst
cramming me. I was an ac-
extended visit to Israel
land and the man was
Idenberg.
ot thought of acting during
here but was introduced to
enberg who was looking for
sh actors to take part with
an English version of his
n of Shalom Aleichem's
tle "Men" (Die Kleine
ech).
the weeks of rehearsal, I
know Elihu the director,
and the man. In direction
g his aim was perfection
attained. As a man, he had
aim and did not fall short
rustrations and difficulties,
lost patience and always set
ple to the rest of us. I per-
fect that I am a better per-
a better actor, for having
im.

BRIDGE /
George E. Levinrew

Does it pay to sacrifice?

way to prevent the loss of seven
tricks — minus 700 points
which was more than East-West
could have made with their con-
tract. So the sacrifice did not pay.

Deal 2
E-W. Vul.

NORTH (D)
♠ A 4 5 2
♥ 5
♦ J 10 6 5 3 2
♣ A 7 3

EAST
♠ K Q 4 2
♥ A K 8 3 2
♦ K Q 8 7 4
♣ K Q 8 5 3

SOUTH
♠ J 9 7 5
♥ J 6 3 2
♦ J 9 8 2
♣ A 4 3

West North East South
1 ♠ 1 ♠ 1 ♠ 1 ♠
2 ♥ 2 ♥ 2 ♥ 2 ♥
3 ♥ 3 ♥ 3 ♥ 3 ♥
4 ♥ 4 ♥ 4 ♥ 4 ♥
5 ♥ 5 ♥ 5 ♥ 5 ♥
6 ♥ 6 ♥ 6 ♥ 6 ♥
7 ♥ 7 ♥ 7 ♥ 7 ♥
8 ♥ 8 ♥ 8 ♥ 8 ♥
9 ♥ 9 ♥ 9 ♥ 9 ♥
10 ♥ 10 ♥ 10 ♥ 10 ♥
11 ♥ 11 ♥ 11 ♥ 11 ♥
12 ♥ 12 ♥ 12 ♥ 12 ♥
13 ♥ 13 ♥ 13 ♥ 13 ♥
14 ♥ 14 ♥ 14 ♥ 14 ♥
15 ♥ 15 ♥ 15 ♥ 15 ♥

The bidding:
West North East South
1 ♠ 1 ♠ 1 ♠ 1 ♠
2 ♥ 2 ♥ 2 ♥ 2 ♥
3 ♥ 3 ♥ 3 ♥ 3 ♥
4 ♥ 4 ♥ 4 ♥ 4 ♥
5 ♥ 5 ♥ 5 ♥ 5 ♥
6 ♥ 6 ♥ 6 ♥ 6 ♥
7 ♥ 7 ♥ 7 ♥ 7 ♥
8 ♥ 8 ♥ 8 ♥ 8 ♥
9 ♥ 9 ♥ 9 ♥ 9 ♥
10 ♥ 10 ♥ 10 ♥ 10 ♥
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12 ♥ 12 ♥ 12 ♥ 12 ♥
13 ♥ 13 ♥ 13 ♥ 13 ♥
14 ♥ 14 ♥ 14 ♥ 14 ♥
15 ♥ 15 ♥ 15 ♥ 15 ♥

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Fish Salad "Man" 160 gr. form.	4.75	4.30
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A welcome initiative

ISRAEL'S FOREIGN policy-makers are regularly accused of displaying a peculiar reluctance to take the diplomatic initiative. The usual defence is that their ideas, however constructive and honourable, are apt to be misinterpreted, twisted around, and ultimately defeated. The practical result, however, has been to leave the field wide open for Israel's foes, whose machinations must then be laboriously exposed and discredited.

Ambassador Chaim Herzog's action on Monday in tabling Israel's first — or, at most, second — draft resolution in the General Assembly's entire history is therefore to be welcomed. The text, worked out on instructions from Foreign Minister Yigal Allon, calls on Egypt, Israel, Syria and Jordan to "reconvene without delay at the Geneva peace conference" in order to negotiate, "without prior conditions," a just and durable settlement of the Middle East conflict.

The resolution, which has only Israel for a sponsor, could not have been submitted in the belief that it had any chance of acceptance by the Assembly. Indeed, no sooner was it made public than a group of pro-Arab "non-aligned" countries rushed to undermine it by offering an amendment which would invite the PLO to take part in the conference.

What the Israel draft unmistakably conveyed was that the minimum requirement for participation is the acceptance of the explicit obligations of peacemaking. This, of course, rules out the PLO.

Adoption of the "non-aligned" amendment would force Israel to withdraw its own resolution; or, if the Assembly President were to decide that it could not be retracted, to vote against it. Yet that is no reason to deplore the fact of its submission. For it has achieved that which Israel sought: to make crystal-clear its own position in favour of an early resumption of the Geneva talks.

A demurrer to the Israel initiative was yesterday entered by the former Ambassador to the UN, Yosef Tekoa. He claimed that it was wrong for this country to weaken, for paltry reasons of mere propaganda, its principled stand against the General Assembly meddling in, and messing up, the settlement of the Middle East conflict.

The argument appears rather wide of the mark. What Israel in fact has done is to acknowledge the Assembly's right — indeed its duty — to support Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, which provide the only terms of reference for the Geneva conference. By the same token, Israel's resolution denies the right of the Assembly, or for that matter of the Secretary-General, to unilaterally vary those terms.

This is precisely what both the General Assembly and the Secretary-General have done — the Assembly last year by urging that the PLO be invited, as a matter of inalienable right, to Geneva, and Dr. Waldheim earlier this year by soliciting the PLO's advice on the resumption of the peace talks with its participation. These two actions serve as the basis of resolutions offered by the Syrians and the Egyptians in the current Middle East debate.

Both resolutions, but especially the Egyptian, which is viewed as "moderate," are candidates for easy adoption. And both lack any legal validity. They violate the language of the original letters of invitation to the first Geneva session, in December, 1973, which made clear that the addition of invitees would be up to the initial participants; and they ignore the specific commitment given to Israel by the U.S., a co-chairman of the conference.

Doomed though it is, Israel's resolution represents the only workable basis for renewed diplomatic momentum for peace in the area.

Confusion about pensions

THE ARGUMENT that has broken out between the pension funds and the Accountant-General over the Treasury's decision to cut the interest it pays to the funds by one per cent reveals how divorced from any kind of economic reality are the calculations made in some sectors of the social services.

To claim that a reduction from 6.5 to 5.5 per cent in the interest on index-linked bonds sold to the funds will reduce pension entitlements from 70 to 55 per cent of an employee's last wage implies that previously the full pension could be financed out of the funds' own resources; which is of course not the case. All the funds can claim is that the cash flow would remain positive, with more money moving in than goes out, for an appreciable number of years ahead — no more than that.

The optimism that prevailed during the long period of economic boom permitted a certain recklessness. It was possible to fix contributions and benefits that had little relation to each other. Pensioners are linked to the average wage. A 40 per cent pension is guaranteed to persons reaching the age of retirement after only ten years of contributions — all this on the basis of a monthly input equal to 16 per cent of the payroll.

Not only that: the one-tenth of assets which the funds are free to invest at their own discretion is used in the main for giving cheap, non-linked loans to members. Can the taxpayers' official representatives be justly blamed for reducing the interest to a lower figure, when the funds' own members pay half as much as that figure or less?

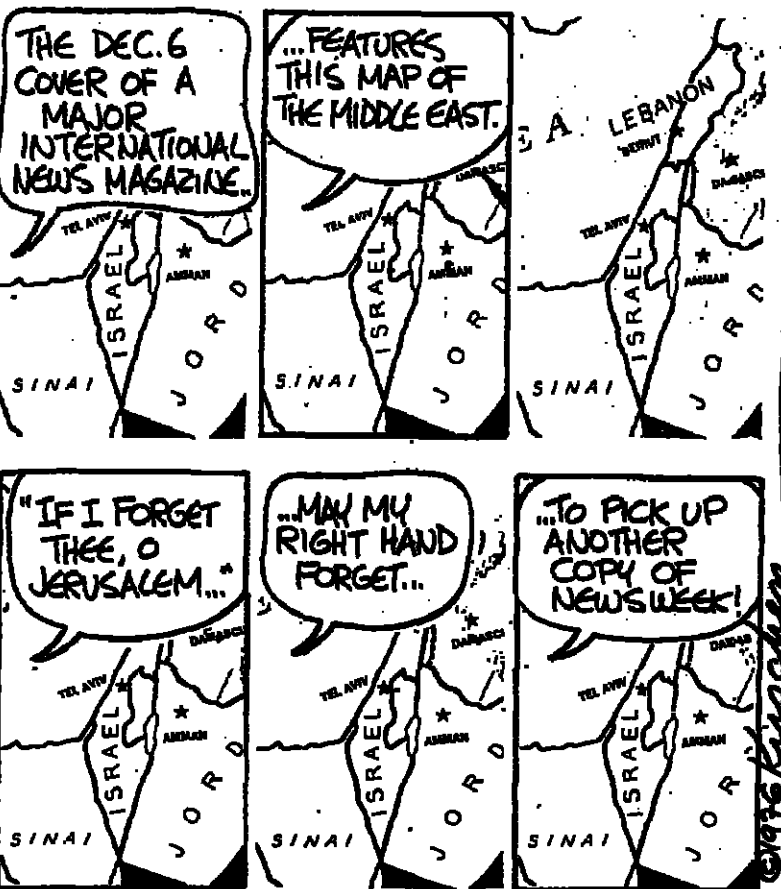
The Government pleads that it cannot fix general interest rates according to the whim of the pension funds. It has lowered the ceiling on all linked loans from nine to 7.5 per cent throughout the economy, which means that banks cannot manage to pay more than 5.5 or six per cent, even if they want to. Indeed, 5.5 per cent is what the funds used to be receiving, without complaint, during the whole of the 1960s.

The present polemics arise out of a confusion about terms of reference, for which the Government cannot escape responsibility. The pension funds could have been given to understand from the beginning that they are exclusively responsible for their own affairs, as insurance companies are. But since they are compelled to place nine-tenths of their assets at the behest of the Accountant-General, they can justifiably plead that part of the responsibility for balancing the accounts has passed to the Treasury.

The point is that 600,000 fund members have been dunned for contributions month by month since they entered employment, and were promised certain benefits when they retire. The Treasury cannot close its eyes to these circumstances, and pretend they are not its concern.

The Government must make its own calculation about the viability of the pension funds, and ensure that financial provision is made according to an authoritative actuarial plan. Lopping one per cent off the interest paid to the funds as a matter of budgetary convenience suggests that not only the funds, but the Government too, is ducking its long-term obligations.

Dry Bones



CYRUS VANCE LAST MAY 'Arabs are the problem'

According to this week's 'Newsweek,' Secretary of State-designate Cyrus Vance said that it would be necessary to put heavy pressure on Israel. Last May, Vance spoke in a different vein.

By WOLF BLITZER

WASHINGTON. — SECRETARY OF State-designate Cyrus Vance has rarely spoken in public about the Arab-Israeli conflict. But in an interview on May 23 with WNSB, a local New York City television station, the light-lipped diplomat was relatively frank in replying to questions on the Middle East.

Asked how far America's commitment to Israel should go, Vance replied: "I think this is a very important commitment. I think that we are committed to the survival of Israel. There isn't any question about that. We've said this many, many times, and this should remain a fundamental and cardinal principle of our foreign policy."

Pressed whether this commitment meant that the U.S. would go to war to save Israel from being destroyed, Vance said: "If Israel were about to be driven into the sea, my answer would be yes. If they were to be extinguished as a country, I would be yes."

Vance was asked how he would have handled the Middle East situation after the 1973 war. As to the initial disengagement, he thought that Kissinger had done "a splendid job." But he asserted that after the initial disengagement agreements in Sinai and on the Golan Heights the step-by-step diplomatic approach "was almost doomed to failure."

"There were too many loose pieces that were not being brought together," he explained, "and my own feeling is that in the long run, any ultimate settlement in the Middle East is going to require some participation and cooperation from the Soviet Union."

In the same interview, Vance said that the Soviet Union seemed "totally committed to the harsher Arab point of view," while the U.S. seemed to be "somewhat nebulously committed to Israel."

He suggested that Washington and Moscow "thrash it out...and then discuss this with the other parties concerned and see if you can find a way to move forward." But "the real problem" was that several Arab states continued to reject Israel's existence.

VANCE WAS CRITICAL of the Sinai accord of September 1975 because it split off Egypt — with its relatively moderate approach — from that of the other Arab states.

As a result, Egypt now had "less influence, so it seems to me, than they had in the past, and Syria and the others [are] by themselves...And it is obviously going to take some pulling together of these peoples before you're going to be able to seriously get down to negotiating a final, comprehensive agreement."

Since being named, Vance is reported to have confided that the Middle East ranks third in his order of priorities, the negotiation of a U.S.-Soviet treaty on strategic arms limitation remaining the most critical foreign policy problem facing Washington, and the international economic situation being second.

If Vance devotes much of his time to his No.1 and No.2 problems, his Undersecretary for Political Affairs and his Assistant Secretary for Near East Affairs, whoever they are, will probably be assigned the major responsibility in handling the Middle East.

POSTSCRIPTS

THIS IS A REQUIEM for the beret, a continental form of the Scottish tam-o'-shanter which may soon be as antiquated as a full-bottomed wig. An AP report from Paris says that if it were not for military orders (black berets for tank crews, red berets for parachutists, presumably), French beret manufacturers would go out of business.

The headgear made famous by tennis champion Borotra, and once favoured by the Prince of Wales, by Marc Chagall and Dizzy Gillespie, not to mention legions of the less well-known, is now worn in France only by a handful of provincials or a

tourist who wants to think he's looking French.

One of the reasons for the decline is that most men now prefer to go bareheaded (which is why all those films of the '30s look so odd, with the men wearing hats everywhere at the time). Another is that Frenchmen have taken to umbrellas like ducks to water.

Said one manufacturer: "The army has hung on to berets but they may change some day. They're always 20 years behind the times." Elias, poor beret. You have gone with the snows of yesterday. F.D.

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VIEWPOINT

Reform and the Aliya argument

THE RECENT conventions in Israel of the World Union for Progressive Judaism and of the Conservative Movement afforded renewed opportunities for local political and Zionist leaders to restate a scandalous theory. This is that these representatives of pluralism in Judaism must reinforce their claims for religious recognition by massive aliya to Israel. This idea was also endorsed by Golda Meir some years ago.

At present neither Progressive nor Conservative Jews enjoy any formal religious rights in Israel. Their rabbis (except for a handful of Conservative rabbis) may not officiate at marriages. They have no status with the burial societies. They receive no allocations from the budget of the Ministry of Religious Affairs or from local Religious Councils, on which they are also flatly denied representation. They encounter difficulties in renting premises for holding religious services. Owners of halls are threatened with cancellation of their Khasrut licenses if they let to Reform. Recently Chief Rabbi Ovadia Yosef inhibited a printer from working on a Reform Prayer Book.

Nothing that Progressive Jews do in Israel improves their situation. If they make converts to Judaism by following strict Halachic procedures these conversions are still not accepted. Although the Law of Return does not specify that conversion must be Halachic, and thereby recognizes Reform converts as Jews, the Israeli rabbinate refuses to deal with them as such in the area where its writ runs in Israel: that of personal status.

What, then, does the suggestion that increased aliya of Progressive Jews would alter the situation amount to? At best, evasion, at worst an infamous and immoral attitude.

Were a quarter of a million Progressive Jews to arrive in Israel this year the situation would not

Reform Jews are often told that if they want recognition, massive aliya on their part would do the trick. This, writes ARTHUR SAUL SUPER, is an immoral attitude.

change, because Coalition considerations would remain paramount and the Mafdal would veto any change in the official religious status of the Reform. Unless... these Reformers organized politically and exercised clout on the ruling political parties.

What does this mean? It means that religious freedom for many Jews in Israel and the Diaspora does not depend on principle but on numbers. For the many, or the politically organized, there is religious freedom, for the others not. God is firmly aligned, in the eyes of recent spokesmen for the Israeli Government and the Jewish Agency, on the side of the large battalions.

If numbers are all, we must reinterpret Jewish history and make changes. Certainly the *Al Henukha* prayer must disappear from the *Henukha* liturgy. What right have Jewish minorities in the Diaspora to demand rights from the Gentile majority? Need we labour this point? But the matter goes deeper than this. The Reform movement today is deeply committed to aliya, and an increasing number of Reform Jews are making the decision to come here although they are previously made fully aware of the religious disabilities they will encounter.

Nevertheless, there are deep heart-searchings and divisions within the world Reform Movement. For years now the leadership there has been waging a fierce internal

battle. The policy has been to damp down public criticism of Israel's denial of religious recognition to Reform. This, from a reluctance to add to Israel's troubles in these grim years of grave danger.

THE DISPUTE nearly erupted at the World Progressive Conference in Jerusalem in 1968 when a proposal to march on the Western Wall and hold a prayer-meeting there was almost implemented. There were sharp intra-mural discussions before this year's convention. The argument against rocking the boat was fiercely countered by those who adduced the example of Gush Emunim at Kfar Dum and Kiryat Arba. These elements, it was stated, had not hesitated to increase Israel-Arab tensions by their anti-Government measures. In the end the "quietly" policy prevailed.

But the protest elements against gathering strength. And these voices are heard not only in the grass roots, but in some top echelons. There were much verbiage talk at the recent convention of invoking financial sanctions to reinforce Reformist city of demands. The leader of one of America's largest congregations, often pointed out that Reform donors and workers were responsible for much more than half of monies of all kinds raised for Israel in the U.S.

There was also another reaction, the suggestion that only political clout will secure the moral rights of Reform in Israel. Some asked if it was time was not ripe for Reform to put the political here. At this stage there was an overwhelmingly negative reaction to this suggestion. Reform leaders point to the deadly effect which existing religious political ties have had on Judaism as a third argument against this gambit.

The writer was Chief Reform Rabbi Johananis before returning to Israel last year.

READERS' LETTERS

SMOKING AND THE HALACHA

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, — I have a great respect for Chief Rabbi David Halevy's fresh and original approach to halacha as it affects our daily life. But he really goes too far in stating (December 2) that smoking is forbidden according to halacha, on the basis of Deuteronomy (4:15): "Take therefore good care of yourselves."

According to such an approach, "large salted fish, old salted cheese, mushrooms and truffles, and wine fresh from the barrel" to enumerate only a few, should be forbidden according to halacha. Does not Maimonides include them, and

many other common foods, among those "which are exceedingly harmful to the body and should never be eaten"? (See the remarkable Chapter 4 of his *Eluhot Deot*.)

As far as my knowledge goes, the only discussion as to the prohibition of tobacco in the Halacha is with regard to the fast day of Tisha B'Av, the point at issue being whether it should be prohibited because it constitutes a pleasure. Please, dear Rabbi Halevy, don't add more prohibitions to the weighty mass which bears down on us. LOUIS I. RABINOWITZ Jerusalem.

WASTE OF TIME AND MONEY

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, — Tourism Minister Moshe Kol's proposed slander suit against Mayor Teddy Kolek is a prime example of misdirected zeal by a public servant. Surely, Mayor Kolek's criticism of Minister Kol's disbursement of funds is a legitimate sort of criticism which demands specific public rebuttal (if wrong) in

stead of a lawsuit for slander. Furthermore, what right has Minister Kol to use the legal adviser of his ministry to represent him in his personal lawsuit? Petty lawsuits like this one are a waste of time for the Minister of Tourism and a waste of time and money for the courts.

DE. ALAN SCHMERLER Kfar Saba.

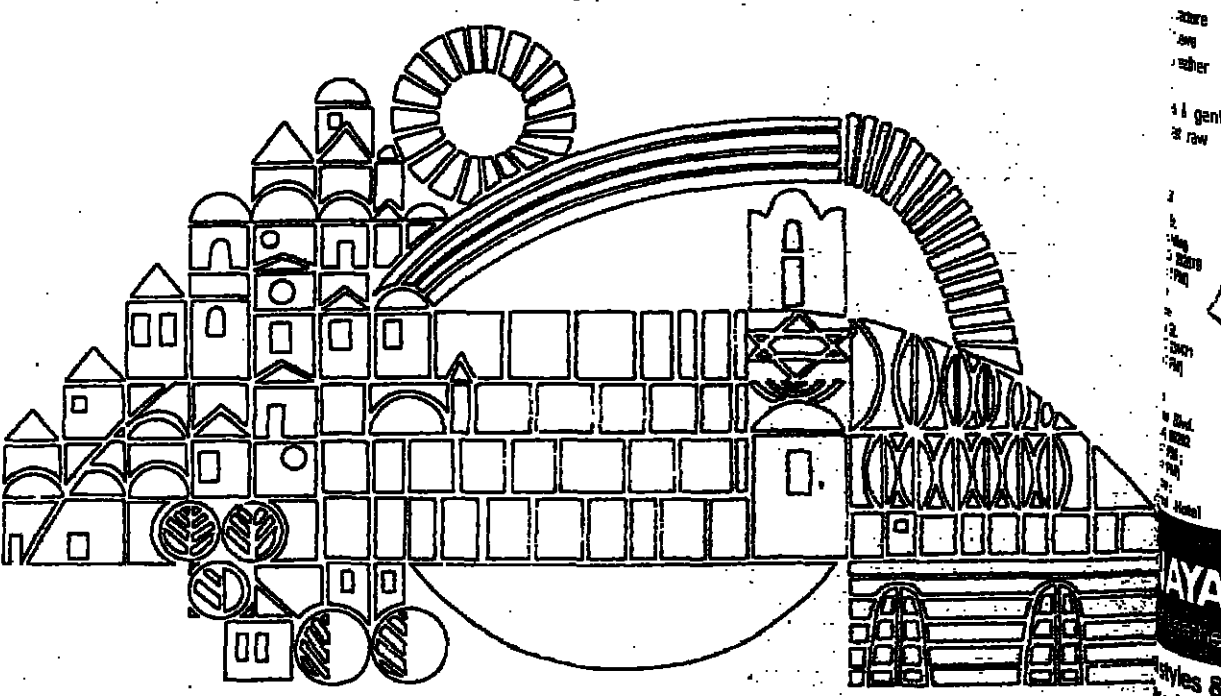
"DIAL 14"

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, — According to the words of the committee of the "Dial 14" operation in Jerusalem (November 28), operators are entitled to an increase in income. Why? Not because they are doing any more work, or working harder, but because, through no fault on their part, their work has been made easier and faster and they no longer have to read the newspaper.

In their mercenary crassness and heartlessness toward their bleeding nation, their attitude is no different in spirit from that of the assassin swindlers now serving prison sentences. They all saw an opportunity and an excuse to enrich themselves — and took it.

Let's have more pay for the work. But if a machine is introduced which increases output (without creating unemployment), the extra output belongs to the employer. DEBORAH SA Holon.

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